

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 - 13, and 15 - 20 are pending in the application. Currently, all claims stand rejected.

By the present amendment, claims 12 and 18 - 20 have been amended and new claims 21 and 22 have been added to the application.

In the office action mailed March 13, 2006, claims 11 - 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,483,054 to Ledwith; and claims 3, 7, 9, 15 - 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledwith in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,692,429 to Redding.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the instant response.

By the present amendment, independent claim 19 has been amended to state that the method for installing a turbine structure into a turbine section of a gas turbine engine comprises the steps of: installing a one-piece drum with an upstream set of turbine blades attached to said one-piece drum rotor and a plurality of disk attachments without turbine blades; said installing step comprising

joining said one-piece drum rotor to an adjacent structure via a leading edge flange and a nut and bolt arrangement; and thereafter installing a downstream set of turbine blades to said disk attachments. The Ledwith patent is totally silent on the manner in which the structure shown therein is installed. Certainly, this reference does not teach or suggest installing a one-piece drum with an upstream set of turbine blades attached and a plurality of disk attachments without turbine blades and after joining the drum rotor to an adjacent structure installing a downstream set of turbine blades to said disk attachments. For these reasons, claim 19 as amended is allowable over the Ledwith patent.

Claims 11 - 13 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 19 as well as on their own accord.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to state that the claimed turbine structure has at least one additional knife element positioned on a surface of the integrally formed flange of the one-piece drum rotor. It is submitted that neither of the cited and applied references teaches or suggests such a structure. Viewing the differences in the prior art drum rotor shown in Ledwith and the drum rotor formed by Ledwith, it can be seen that Ledwith has intentionally omitted any knife elements from the flange.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 9 and 22 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 18, as well as on their own accord.

Claim 20 has been amended to further claim the manner in which the one-piece drum rotor of the present invention is connected to an adjacent structure. The claim now includes the following limitations: "said integrally formed flange having a first leg and a second leg at an angle to said first leg; said first structure having an L-shaped flange with a third leg which extends parallel to said second leg and a fourth leg which extends at an angle to said third leg; and means for joining said integrally formed flange to said L-shaped flange so that when said flanges are joined together said fourth leg abuts an end of said second leg." It is submitted that the cited applied references individually and collectively do not teach or suggest this combination of elements. For this reason, claim 20 is allowable.

Claims 15 - 17 and 21 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 20 as well as on their own accord.

For the foregoing reasons, the instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, he is

hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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I, Karen M. Gill, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 12, 2006.

Karen M. Gill